

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

[Hikurangi Union Parish – Revised 19/3/2008 DMB&EKB]

1. **Ministry** is doing all in His name and for His glory. *Col 3:17,23,24, Heb 6:10.*

2. **Areas of Ministry.**
 - a. **To the Lord.** *Ezek 44:15,16.* Our first ministry is to the Lord in prayer, worship, thanksgiving, listening, reading His Word and obedience.
 - b. **To home and family.**
 - i. **To one's husband,** to inspire, encourage and support, *Pro 31:12.*
 - ii. **To children,** in raising them up in the knowledge and love of Christ; to train and discipline them in God's ways, *Ac 16:1,2, 2Tim 1:5, Deut 6:7.*
 - iii. To pass on to your family your **creative skills and abilities.** Cooking, handwork, gardening etc, *Pro 31:13,14,16,18,19,21,22,24.*
 - c. **To the Church.** Use your gifts and abilities to edify the church, *1Pet 4:10, Rom 12:4-8.*
 - d. **To the needy,** sick, poor, *Jam 1:27, Mat 25:35,36, Pro 31:20.*
 - e. **To the lost** of this world, *Lk 19:10, Ac 1:8, Rom 16:1-4, Jn 4:39, Ps 68:11AMPV.*

3. When God purposed to bring the revelation of the Messiah to the Samaritans He led Jesus by the Spirit, *Jn 4:4,* to the well at Sychar, *Jn 4:5.* There Jesus revealed His Messiahship, *Jn 4:25,26,* to a woman of Samaria, *Jn 4:7,* and through her to the men of the city. *Jn 4:28.*

4. On the day of Pentecost the Spirit was outpoured on 120 disciples, *Ac 1:14,15,* men and women, who were gathered in the "upper room," *Ac 1:13, Ac 2:1-4.* **They were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues. Peter explained this by quoting Joel's prophecy: "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh and your sons **and daughters will prophesy,**" *Ac 2:17.* Men and women, full of the Holy Spirit, went out into the streets proclaiming "the wonderful works of God," *Ac 2:11.* God gives His gifts to men and women. *Gal 3:26-29* says that all who are of faith are "sons of God", all have put on Christ, in whom there is **neither male nor female,** and all are one in Christ Jesus. Jesus said, "whosoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and **sister and mother,**" *Mat 12:50.*

5. **It is God who gives the gifts and ministries** to men and women. It is for us to recognise them, value them, and make room for them to function, *Rom 12:4-8, 1Pet 4:10.*

6. God has chosen the husband to lead the family, *Eph 5:22-33,* and generally he will lead in the church. Men are task orientated and usually more objective than women. God has made them this way so that they can lead. Women are relationship orientated and more feeling. God has made them this way so that they can function as the heart of the family, binding us all together. You can't have a family without a mother's heart. **However, at times, God chooses, equips, calls and anoints a woman to lead in** a nation, or among His people, *Rom 13:1-7.*
 In *Rom 13:4* the leaders of nations, such as Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi are called "God's ministers." They were appointed by God and carried His authority.
Biblical Examples:
Deborah *Jud 4:4-14* - a prophetess, and the Judge over Israel. Deborah had authority over Israel and they came to her for judgment, v5. She directed Barak, the commander of Israel's army, and went with him into battle. Her ministry as Judge was like the position Moses held in *Ex 18:13.*
Queen of Sheba *1Kings 10:1.* Her authority and power was given to her by God.

- Huldah** *2Kings 22:10-20*. She was a prophetess and brought the Word of the Lord to Israel in the days of King Josiah.
- Esther** *Esth 4:14*. God raised her up as Queen to King Ahasuerus, and through her deliverance and salvation came to the Jews
- Hannah** *1Sam 2:1-10*. Her remarkable prophecy contains the first mention of the coming “Messiah” in the Word of God, *v10*.
- Phoebe** *Rom 16:1*. Phoebe was a “servant” of the church. In the KJV, “servant” (“diakonas” in the Greek), is translated “servant” 7 times, “minister” 20 times, “deacon” 3 times, *Eph 3:7, 2Cor 3:6, Rom 13:4, 1Cor 3:5*.
- Priscilla** *Ac 18:18,26, Rom 16:3*. Paul called Priscilla his fellow worker in Christ.
- Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, and others**, *Rom 16:6,12*.
- Anna** *Lk 2:36-38*. She spoke of Christ to all those who looked for redemption.
- Philip’s **four daughters** who prophesied, *Ac 21:8,9*.
- Prophecy is speaking to men, *1Cor 14:3*. Prophecy edifies the Church, *1Cor 14:4*.

7. ***1Cor 14:34,35***.

1Cor 14 is a chapter where Paul is seeking to bring order into the church in Corinth, *v33*. Take time to meditate on the context of *1Cor 14*. In this passage, note that the “women” Paul is referring to are the “wives”. They are not to speak, but to be submissive, and ask their husbands at home. I do not think that this is a ban on women speaking or ministering in church, because in *1Cor 11:5*, Paul refers to women praying and prophesying in church. In *1Cor 14:3* it says that prophecy is speaking edification, exhortation and comfort to men. *1Cor 14:34,35*, seems to be a ban on unruly and unnecessary questioning causing a lack of essential order in the meetings, *1Cor 14:40*.

8. ***1Tim 2:11,12***.

Because of the similarity between this passage and *1Cor 14:34,35*, I think that this is also a matter of right order being maintained and not a ban on women’s ministry. In the KJV Paul is saying, “I do not allow a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over the man.” The example given in *1Tim 2:13,14*, is taken from *Gen 3:1-7*. God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. *Gen 2:16,17*. The woman was not formed at this stage. Adam had first hand revelation. The woman had second hand revelation. In *Gen 3:1-5*, the serpent came to the woman. The serpent lied to the woman and deceived her. The woman should have called Adam to talk to the serpent rather than take it upon herself to do so. This seems to be the issue being addressed in *1Tim 2:11,12*. The God-given gifts of ministry in a believing sister in Christ will have their rightful place in a church that is moving in Biblical order.

9. A friend of ours has been a missionary in Japan for 30 years. She has seen many churches established, many saved, healed, and pastorally cared for in her ministry. Praise God for her and many like her.
10. In *1Cor 11:3* it says Christ is the head of the man, and the man is head of the woman. This is God’s order for the family, *Eph 5:22-33*. However Christ is also head of the woman and she has, as an individual believer, a personal and direct relationship to Christ, her Lord and Saviour. The *1Cor 11:3* order applies to the running of the family.
11. At one point the Lord told Abraham to obey Sarah, *Gen 21:12*. Quite often God reveals His will to a man’s wife and although the husband will be responsible to lead the family on, the direction will come from his wife.